

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 NEA-10 /077 W

----- 078739

R 101903Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5060

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, CB

SUBJECT: PRC DCM FOR CAMBODIA - TS'AO KUEI-SHENG

1. PRC EMBASSY OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF NOVEMBER 7 THAT TS'AO KUEI-SHENG, FORMER POLITICAL COUNSELOR (AND AT ONE TIME CHARGE) IN PARIS' WOULD PROBABLY GO SOON TO PHNOM PENH AS DCM. CURRENT AMBASSADOR TO CAMBODIA WOULD REMAIN. TS'AO IS NOW ON LEAVE IN SHANGHAI, BUT OCCASIONALLY GOES TO PEKING.

2. COMMENT: AS ADDRESSEES WILL KNOW FROM BIO REPORTS, TS'AO IS HIGH RANKING AND APPARENTLY ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF CHOU AND OF THE PRC FOREIGN AFFAIRS ESTABLISHMENT. HIS AUTHORITATIVE ROLE IN PARIS, INCLUDING AS CHARGE, UNDERLINES HIS IMPORTANCE. HIS ASSIGNMENT TO PHNOM PENH, WHERE HE WAS PREVIOUSLY POSTED (1954-57), INDICATES NOT ONLY THE IMPORTANCE THE PRC ACCORDS CAMBODIA' BUT ALSO THAT THE PRC COULD WISH AND EXPECT THE CAMBODIANS TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE. TS'AO WILL NO DOUBT BE MORE ACTIVE IN FOREIGN POLICY INCLUDING AS ADVISOR TO THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT THAN AS AN AID ADMINISTRATOR.

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TS'AO SPEAKS ENGLISH AS WELL AS FRENCH, MIXED WIDELY

IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN PARIS (INCLUDING
EASTERN BLOC) AND WAS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT EUROPEAN
AND AMERICAN POLITICS. HE WAS THE PRINCIPAL WORKING
LEVEL CONTACT FOR THE US EMBASSY WHEN LIAISON WITH THE
PRC WAS HANDLED IN PARIS AND PERHAPS HIS ASSIGNMENT
TO PHNOM PENH INDICATES THE PRC MAY EXPECT THE U.S.
TO BE A FACTOR IN CAMBODIAN POLITICS EVEN THOUGH NOT
REPRESENTED IN PHNOM PENH. RUMOR HAD IT DURING THE
LAST YEAR OR MORE THAT TS'AO WOULD PERHAPS BE ASSIGNED
AS AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO OR ALGIERS, ANOTHER INDICATION
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PHNOM PENH DCM JOB AS A
REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO AN AMBASSADORIAL POSITION.
RUSH

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